

Hard Fern *Blechnum spicant*, Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis*, Lady Fern *Athyrium felix-femina* and Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*. The only fern actually in the immediate area where the specimen was swept was *Osmunda*, but it was uncertain from what species of vegetation the specimen was swept. All species of fern were searched without success for exit holes or characteristic foam balls on 26 June.

I am grateful to Dave Sheppard for confirming my identification and providing further information on the species.— ROGER S. KEY, English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

***Pandemis cinnamomeana* (Tr.) (Lep.: Tortricidae) in Scotland**

Pandemis cinnamomeana was first recorded from Scotland from a single specimen found resting on a leaf at Newcastleton, Roxburghshire on 19 July 1978 (Emmet, 1979. *Ent. Rec.* **91**: 124). It is now recorded from two further vice-counties in southern Scotland as follows:

VC 72 – Specimens from Dumfriesshire are present in the Arthur B. Duncan collection at the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh. They are two females and one male taken at light in Castlehill (OS grid reference NX 9784) on 4 July 1976 and August 1977 respectively and a single male taken at Newlands (OS grid ref NX 9685) on 8 July 1976 (information courtesy of Keith Bland, National Museums of Scotland).

VC 73 – A single male was taken in an m.v. light trap at Carsfad, St John's Town of Dalry, Kircudbrightshire (OS grid ref NX 6085) on 24 July 1988 by the author.

These records firmly extend the range of this species into the Borders and south-west of Scotland.— JESIE MACKAY, Carsfad, Dalry, Castle Douglas, Kircudbrightshire DG7 3ST.

Larvae of *Trachycera suavella* (Zincken, 1818) (Lep.: Pyralidae) found feeding gregariously

The larvae of *Trachycera suavella* are not described as gregarious in the literature. In a lecture to the South London Entomological & Natural History Society, Edwards (1944. *Proc. Trans. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.* **1944-45**: 60-63) stated that the only pyrales to his knowledge with this habit were *Nephoptyx* [now *Pempelia*] *genistella* (Duponchel) and *Acrobasis consociella* (Hübner). Neither Palm (1986. *Nordeuropas Pyralider*. Apollo Books) nor Goater (1986. *British pyralid moths*. Harley Books) ascribes social behaviour to *T. suavella*. When I reared this species on a previous occasion, it was from a larva found feeding singly.

On 21 May 1997 Dr John Langmaid and I visited Red Lodge, Freckenham, Suffolk to search for larvae of *Scythris potentillella* Zeller, since the species was first taken in Britain at that locality. There I noticed a stunted hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* completely enveloped in silk webbing. We both correctly surmised that the feeding was that of *T. suavella*. I cut from it a single twig, 23 cms long but not all

spun and with an average diameter of 6 cm. Foliage from adjacent twigs was incorporated and trimming was necessary to free the spray. From it I reared 20 adults between 22 June and 18 July. The spray constituted a very small portion of the total spinning and the whole bush must have harboured several hundred larvae. I reared no parasites.

Has any other reader encountered this species feeding gregariously? It is possible that a crippled female laid all her eggs on this single bush, but the extent of the infestation indicated that it had been used by more than one female. The species favours stunted and isolated bushes and this may have been the only one of that character available in the vicinity.

Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* is the usual foodplant and hawthorn is not mentioned by Goater (*op. cit.*), but is given as an alternative by Palm (*op. cit.*) and Emmet (1988. *A field guide to the smaller British Lepidoptera*. BENHS; 1991. Chart showing the life history and habits of the British Lepidoptera. in *The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* 7(2). Harley Books).— A.M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, 14 Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AF.

Migrants in 1996

I doubt if anyone needs reminding that 1996 was a remarkable year for many migrants, Clouded Yellows *Colias croceus* Geoffroy and Painted Ladies *Cynthia cardui* L. being amongst the most notable. Even amongst these species, however, there is scope for a few interesting observations.

Although there were a few early reports of migrants, the main migration commenced around the Whitsun holiday. As usual, I was with my family at my mother's, in South Somerset. *Nomophila noctuella* D.&S. was present in low numbers on the coast on 29 May and six came to light in my mother's back garden on the 30th, although it was the dominant species a few miles nearer the coast at Powerstock. Here, small numbers of *Autographa gamma* L. and *Agrotis ipsilon* Hufn. also appeared at a sheet unit. Earlier in the day, my first *C. cardui* was also sighted at Branscombe. We returned to Cambridgeshire on 31 May.

On the 6 June I travelled to Whitby for a fishing trip with colleagues from work and took the opportunity to run a light on the North Yorkshire Moors that night. The night was clear and cool and only seven species visited a 15 watt actinic run over a sheet. There was no evidence of migrants but I was pleased to see *Papestra biren* Goeze in good numbers. The following day, in warm sunshine, I returned to the moors and found *C. cardui* virtually everywhere. I returned home that evening and over the following two to three weeks, *C. cardui* and *Vanessa atalanta* L. were encountered regularly.

On the 8 June, the first "good" migrant came to light in my back garden – a male *Heliothis peltigera* D.&S. *A. gamma* was also present but not in any numbers. Things then went quiet until the next generation of vanessids started to appear in early July and by the time we returned to Somerset on 26 July, *V. atalanta* and *C. cardui* were in abundance. Now the light in my mother's back garden at Crewkerne